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**Security**

**SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF AIRBORNE  
SENSOR IMAGERY AND IMAGERY SYSTEMS**

**COMPLIANCE WITH THIS PUBLICATION IS MANDATORY**

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OPR: SAF/AQLJ (Maj T.W. Tieglar)  
Supersedes AFR 205-27, 28 March 1973; AFR  
205-39, 17 March 1975; and AFR  
205-40, 20 June 1974.

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This instruction implements AFR 31-4, *Information Security*; DoD Instruction 5210.52, *Security Classification of Airborne Sensor Imagery and Imaging Systems*, May 18, 1989; and DoD 5200.1-R, *Information Security Program Regulation*, June 1986, with Change 1. It provides guidance for classifying and releasing certain imagery and information on airborne imagery systems, including radar, infrared, television, and optical imaging systems.

**SUMMARY OF REVISIONS**

This instruction consolidates and updates security procedures for handling information on airborne imagery systems and their imagery products. It supersedes AFRs 205-27, 205-39, and 205-40.

**1. Responsibilities and Authorities:**

**1.1. Installation Commanders.** Establish Information Security Programs, identify requirements, and execute programs in compliance with DoD 5200.1-R and AFR 31-4.

**1.2. Air Force Members.** People at all levels ensure that airborne imagery and information concerning airborne imagery systems are protected by appropriate security classification and handling procedures. Follow the principles of "need to know" and prevention of possible damage to US interests in the absence of specific guidance. Detailed classification considerations and criteria are contained in DoD Instruction 5210.52, paragraph F, and enclosures 3, 4, and 5.

**1.3. Air Force Personnel Assigned Responsibility for Planning, Development, Acquisition, Testing, Deployment, and Employment of Airborne Systems:**

- Use sound judgment in applying rules in DoD Instruction 5210.52.

- In the case of certain intelligence-related matters, in the absence of written guidance, or when in doubt about proper classification direct queries to Defense Intelligence Agency, Directorate of Defense Collection, DIA/CL-1, Room 1D918, Pentagon, Washington DC 20301-7400, through the chain of command.

**1.4. Program Managers, Project Officers, or Other Officials Assigned Responsibility for a Given Program (Office of Primary Responsibility [OPR]).** Prepare detailed Classification Guides for all elements of airborne sensor imagery operations, using criteria in DoD Instruction 5210.52, enclosures 3, 4, and 5; DoD 5200.1-R; and DoD 5200.1-H, *Department of Defense Handbook for Writing Security Classification Guidance*, March 1986.

**1.5. Component Chiefs or Other Classification Authorities.** Classify, sanitize, or declassify imagery, imaging systems, and imagery-derived products and information according to DoD Instruction 5210.52 and DoD 5200.1-R.

**1.6. The Assistant Secretary of the Air Force (Acquisition) (SAF/AQ).** Determines the initial overall classification needed for airborne imagery systems in development. The Director of Electronic and Special Programs (SAF/AQL) serves as the Air Force focal point for airborne imagery systems in development.

**1.7. Specifically Authorized and Designated Users of Imagery.** May be required to "sanitize" imagery to permit downgrading or declassification by the classification authority. These procedures will disguise technical capabilities and limitations of the imagery source. Sanitization and declassification procedures can be found in DoD Instruction 5210.52, enclosures 5 and 6. Holders of imagery release it to the public in compliance with DoD Directive 5230.9, *Clearance of DoD Information for Public Release*, April 2, 1982, with Change 1; and DoD Directive 5230.25, *Withholding of Unclassified Technical Data From Public Disclosure*, November 6, 1984.

**1.8. Releasing Information to Foreign Governments and International Organizations.** Individuals authorized to release classified information to foreign governments and international organizations follow DoD Directive 5230.11, *Disclosure of Classified Military Information to Foreign Governments and International Organizations*, June 16, 1992.

**2. References and Definitions.** See **Attachment 1**, section A, for a short listing of documents which supply information on handling imagery and **Attachment 1**, section B for terms used in this instruction.

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Acquisition

## Attachment 1

### LIST OF REFERENCES AND TERMS

#### *Section A--References*

The following citations are not intended to be exhaustive, but are furnished to indicate the primary directives governing the various security aspects of airborne sensor imagery activities:

Executive Order 10104, *Defining Certain Vital Military and Naval Installations and Equipment as Requiring Protection Against the General Dissemination of Information Relative Thereto*, February 1, 1950

Executive Order 12356, *National Security Information*, April 2, 1982

DoD Directive 2040.2, *International Transfers of Technology, Goods, Services, and Munitions*, January 17, 1984, with Change 1

DoD 5200.1-H, *Department of Defense Handbook for Writing Security Classification Guidance*, March 1986

DoD 5200.1-R, *Information Security Program Regulation*, June 1986, with Change 1

DoD Instruction 5210.52, *Security Classification of Airborne Sensor Imagery and Imaging Systems*, May 18, 1989

DoD Directive 5230.9, *Clearance of DoD Information for Public Release*, April 2, 1982, with Change 1

DoD Directive 5230.11, *Disclosure of Classified Military Information to Foreign Governments and International Organizations*, June 16, 1992

DoD Directive 5230.25, *Withholding of Unclassified Technical Data From Public Disclosure*, November 6, 1984

AFPD 31-4, *Information Security*

#### *Section B--Terms*

**Airborne Sensor**—A technical device designed to detect and respond to one or more particular stimuli, which may record and/or transmit a resultant response for interpretation or measurement and is carried aboard a manned or unmanned platform operating in the earth's atmosphere.

**Classification**—The determination that official information requires, in the interests of national security, a specific degree of protection against unauthorized disclosure, coupled with a designation signifying that such a determination has been made.

**Collateral**—All US security information classified CONFIDENTIAL, SECRET, or TOP SECRET under Executive Order 12356, excluding information specifically designated by the Secretaries of Defense or the military departments as particularly sensitive and requiring protection within a special access program and Sensitive Compartmented Information.

**Declassification**—The determination that in the interests of national security, classified information no longer requires any degree of protection against unauthorized disclosure, together with removal or cancellation of the classification designation.

**Downgrade**—To determine that classified information requires, in the interests of national security, a lower degree of protection against unauthorized disclosure than currently provided, coupled with a changing of the classification designation to reflect such lower degree.

**Imagery**—Collectively, the representation of objects reproduced electronically or by optical means on film, electronic display devices, or other media. For security classification purposes, this term includes exposed or recorded media not yet processed chemically or electronically to a state of visibility or utility.

**Imagery Derived Products**—Information or intelligence products derived from imagery in other than photographic form (includes textual reports, tables, graphics, cables, messages, and oral information).

**Imagery Products**—Image reproductions in less than full frame format without titling and marginal data (includes photographic prints, vu graphs, and transparencies).

**Imaging System**—The resources and procedures used to collect imagery in any band of the electromagnetic spectrum.

**Sanitization**—The process of editing, or otherwise altering, intelligence or intelligence information to protect sensitive sources, methods, and analytical capabilities so as to permit greater dissemination at a lower classification or unclassified level.